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## CHRISTMAS HINTS

As the holiday season approaches, visiting nurses east and west are wondering how much Christmas cheer will reach their chosen people. Invariably that chosen flock consists of boys and girls not on Santa's calling list, and much voluntary service is given by the busy nurses in order that not even "the least of these" may be overlooked. It may help other nurses to know how two Chicago Tuberculosis Visiting Nurses, May Middleton, Chicago Hospital, and Elsa Lund, Augustana Hospital, provided for their children last year.

Early in December, they discussed plans for their entertainment, finally deciding upon a Christmas tree, preceded by a short program. Every one became interested and helped. The head-resident of Henry Booth House Settlement offered the hall for the party, and residents of Hull House, from Miss Addams down, volunteered gifts and services. Most of the toys were collected through the efforts of Mrs. Wm. F. Wilson, one of Miss Middleton's friends, who gave a toy tea ten days before Christmas. This last, which was the hostess' own idea, was a simple and pretty way of obtaining the large number of toys necessary. Each invited guest was asked to bring a toy and prizes were awarded for the most comical toy, the most unusual toy, and the prettiest doll that could be purchased for fifty cents or less. Any one desiring to make more than one entry was at liberty to do so. The judging of the entries, conducted amid surroundings that reminded one of the toy department of a large store, was watched with eager interest by every one. The toys themselves filled one with the true Christmas spirit and many of the guests announced their intention of going to the party later. The awards aroused gales of laughter and before any one had noticed the flight of time, dainty Scotch cakes and tea were served and a red-letter afternoon tea was over.

The nurses trimmed the tree and did up the presents and on the afternoon before Christmas gave the party. As the one hundred guests, mysteriously augmented to one hundred and fifty, entered the hall, each one was given a little flag and escorted to a seat by one of the volunteer ushers. A friend opened the program by playing some popular songs which the children sang, then followed recitations, a Spanish dance, violin and vocal solos, and a story or two. At last the curtains parted, disclosing a tree, brilliant with lights and laden with toys. A truly Santa Claus, a resident of Hull House, who called every one by name, presided,

and each child received a toy and a bag. Last, but not least, ice cream (one of the "toys" at the tea had been five dollars towards this) and cake were passed and the parting guests were gently speeded on their divers ways. It was certainly a great success and the children still talk of "the party that Miss Middleton and Miss Lund gave us."

In Boston, the Tuberculosis Visiting Nurses make lists of the needs of their special cases and Miss Isabel Hyams, one of the trustees of the Boston Consumptives' Hospital, and her friends play Santa Claus at large and not only collect the clothing, gloves, shoes, stockings, etc., on each list, but add a toy for every child, a doll for every girl, and a flowering plant or a basket of fruit for each house-ridden patient. On the day before Christmas the nurses, in automobiles loaned for the occasion, carry the gifts to the patients' homes.

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### **"IN TIME OF PEACE, PREPARE FOR WAR"**

By BEATRICE VAN H. STEVENSON

Secretary, New York State Committee on Red Cross Nursing Service

VERY shortly after Major-General Leonard Wood assumed his duties as Chief of the General Staff of the United States Army, the highest military position which the service affords, he expressed his opinion most forcibly as to the necessity of extending the work of the Red Cross. He said, in part, "Interest in the Red Cross organization should be developed and increased and can be carried to a point where the Red Cross will be of the greatest value to us in war or in case of any great disaster. The extension and improvement of the Red Cross is of vital necessity in time of peace. . . . We should have districts all over the country with base of supplies and volunteer personnel, in touch and ready to be called upon. Such Red Cross organization would be useful not only in time of war, for which we have been told by a great general we must prepare in time of peace, but would be highly useful at times of big disasters like that of the San Francisco earthquake."

The fact that General Wood commenced his army service as a surgeon in the medical department (being transferred to the line at the time of the Spanish War) gives special emphasis to his remarks on this subject. During the last month more than one news item in our daily papers, under the heading "Army and Navy Notes," has commenced with a line such as "Profiting by experience gained during the Spanish War, the War Department has ordered, etc." For instance, in October we read,